

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex developmental disorder that typically appears during early childhood, but often remains undiagnosed until later in life; and

*WHEREAS*; individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder experience a wide range of symptoms, and may interact with others, communicate, self-regulate, and learn in ways that are different from other individuals, repeat certain behaviors, and be more sensitive to changes in routine than their peers; and

*WHEREAS*; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Autism Spectrum Disorder impacts as many as one in 54 children in the United States, and an estimated one in 60 children in Wisconsin; and

*WHEREAS*; an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis can have far-reaching implications for a diagnosed individual and their family, and early diagnosis, research, professional training, education, and therapies are vital to ensuring that every child and adult has access to the full range of choices and opportunities available to live their most independent and fulfilling lives; and

*WHEREAS*; Autism Spectrum Disorder affects a person throughout their entire life, and their quality of life depends not only on the foundation provided in childhood, but also on ongoing support that is specific to their educational, medical, social, recreational, family, and employment needs; and

*WHEREAS*; for decades, advocates in Wisconsin and nationwide have celebrated April as Autism Awareness Month, however we recognize that the choice of our words matters and that, while awareness provides education and understanding, acceptance is what is needed to inspire inclusion and systems-wide changes to ensure individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder are treated with dignity and respect and are able participate fully in society; and

*WHEREAS*; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins self-advocates, family members, caregivers, medical professionals, and dedicated organizations across our state in raising awareness, celebrating the numerous ways individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder enhance the quality of our communities and enrich our world, fostering acceptance, and working together to create a more welcoming and inclusive state for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to  
be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the  
City of Madison this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March  
2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".  
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TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas La Follette".  
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DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

